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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. H 4165

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)

Josef Otto RETTENMAIER et al.)

Serial No.: 09/380,739)

Filed: December 15, 1999)

For: LAUNDRY DETERGENT COMPACT)
WHICH DISINTEGRATES IN LIQUIDS)

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED
13 JUN 2001
Legal Staff
International Division

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application. Copies of the listed documents are attached.

English translations or English Abstracts of some of the non-English documents are enclosed. A copy of the International Search Report from the European Patent Office in a corresponding application is also enclosed.

Also enclosed are copies (with English translation thereof) of the statements of opposition to German Patent No. 197 09 991 from Dalli-Werke Wäsche- und Körperpflege GmbH & Co. KG,

Cognis Deutschland GmbH, and Cellulose-Füllstoff-Fabrik GmbH & Co. KG.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited document(s) do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

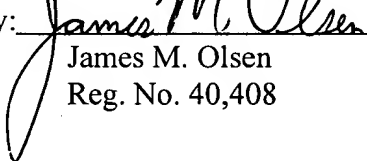
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

Dated: February 21, 2001

By: 
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